



EISD

Eaton Intermediate School District

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Where knowledge continues to grow...

Wendy L. Sellers, Comprehensive School Health Coordinator

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RE: House Bill 4163

Dear House Commerce Committee:

Thank you for gathering input from the citizens of Michigan on the issue of the air we breathe. It is time for Michigan to join the other states and nations that have passed laws ensuring the health of our citizens by requiring all public buildings, including bars and restaurants, to be smoke-free. I urge you to support HB 4163 and make it possible for citizens to be safe from carcinogens and toxins that are put into the air of bars, restaurants, and other workplaces.

As a private citizen, I need to be able to have dinner in any restaurant without putting my health at risk from someone else's smoke. I need to be able to go to a bar to dance and listen to live music without becoming sick from secondhand smoke. Yes, I could stay home, but why should I have to?

As a professional prevention specialist, I know that tobacco-related deaths claim 17,000 Michigan residents each year. The Surgeon General recommends the total elimination of indoor smoking to prevent the thousands of deaths from secondhand smoke. Thousands more, particularly infants and children, are ill from their exposure to smoke. This is a public health issue on which our government must take a stand to protect the public's health.

Going smoke free also makes good business sense. Employers can reduce employee absenteeism due to smoke-related illnesses. They can reduce their insurance rates and cleaning bills by prohibiting smoking in their bars and restaurants. Research indicates that restaurants and bars that went smoke-free actually enjoyed an increase in business.

Ireland, Italy, Sweden, Illinois, Toledo, and many other cities, states, and nations have gone smoke free to improve the health of their citizens, reduce health care costs, and promote good business. It's time Michigan did the same. Please support HB 4163.

Please contact me at 517-484-2929, extension 1168 or wsellers@eaton.k12.mi.us if you would like to discuss this further.

Yours for health,

Wendy L. Sellers, RN, CPC, MA

Citizen, Grand Ledge, MI

Comprehensive School Health Coordinator

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